

In re LENOSKI ET AL., Application No. 09/519,282
Amendment C

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method performed by a packet switch, the packet switch including ~~a plurality of input components, a plurality of output components,~~ one or more multistage interconnection networks, each of said one or more multistage interconnection networks including a plurality of switching stages which include a first switching stage, a final switching stage, and one or more intermediate switching stages in between the first and final switching stages, said or more intermediate switching stages including a broadcast component, the method comprising:

~~sending a plurality of packets from the plurality of input components to the plurality of output components through said one or more interconnection networks;~~

recognizing an error within the packet switch by one of the plurality of switching stages;

sending a particular packet from said one of the plurality of switching stages to the broadcast component through at least a portion of said one or more interconnection networks in response to said recognizing the error, the particular packet including an indication of the error and an indication corresponding to the broadcast component; and

notifying ~~the a~~ a plurality of input components of the packet switch of the error, said notifying including sending one or more packets indicating the error from the broadcast component through at least a second portion of said one or more interconnection networks, said second portion including the final switching stage.

Claims 2-5 (canceled)

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Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising each of the plurality of input components updating one or more status data structures in response to receiving a notification of the error.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 6, further comprising each of the plurality of input components determining which of a plurality of paths leading to a destination output component over which to send a particular packet, the path determined by referencing the one or more status data structures.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 6, wherein the one or more data structures include an output availability table to indicate whether a possible path through the packet switching system from the input component to a particular destination is available.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising disabling at least one of the plurality of input components from sending packets to a particular destination of the packet switching system when a number of possible paths through the packet switching system leading to a particular destination falls below a predetermined threshold value as identified by one or more received packets containing indications of one or more errors.

Claims 11-25 (canceled)

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Claim 26 (new): The method of claim 7, wherein said determining which of the plurality of paths leading to a destination output component over which to send the particular packet, the path determined by referencing the one or more status data structures, includes ANDing a plurality of bit vectors extracted from said one or more status data structures to identify a set of available paths, and selecting a particular path from the set of available paths.

Claim 27 (new): The method of claim 10, wherein the predetermined threshold value is greater than one.

Claim 28 (new): The method of claim 1, further comprising disabling at least one of the plurality of input components from sending packets to a particular destination of the packet switching system when a number of possible paths through the packet switching system leading to a particular destination equals one.